

*And remind (others), for the reminder most certainly benefits the Believers
Surah Zhaariyaat, verse 55*

TARAWEEH SALAAH DURING THE LOCKDOWN

A syndrome of the current lockdown is the offering of taraweeh salaah at home. This practice has, naturally, raised a number of questions surrounding the method of jamaat for taraweeh, and the joining of jamaat by ladies of the household. We provide some Shar'ee rules in this regard.

- 1) It is permissible for ladies in the house to join the Taraweeh salaah of the menfolk. In fact, family ladies should not read salaah on their own if there is a jamaat taking place in the house. It was the Sunnah of Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam), if he had missed Jamaat salaah in the Musjid, to make a jamaat with family members at home. This practice also generates love and unity among family members.
- 2) It is not permissible for a woman to follow a Taraweeh jamaat consisting of only non-mehram males. However, if she has a mahram in the jamaat, then she may follow.
- 3) If the Taraweeh jamaat consists of only mahram males, then the ladies may stand in a saff (row) behind the males and children. Nabaaligh girls will stand with the ladies, but at the end of the saff on either side.
- 4) If the Taraweeh jamaat has mahram **and** non-mehram males, then ladies should stand behind a screen or curtain in the same room.
- 5) It is also permissible for the ladies to stand in an adjacent room provided the door of that room is left open and they are able to see the jamaat and hear the Imam reciting. If the door is completely closed, then the ladies may not follow the jamaat that is in progress in the next room.
- 6) Ladies are not allowed to make their own Taraweeh Jamaat, according to the Hanafi Mazhab.
- 7) **Looking inside the Quran while offering salaah:** In the Hanafi mazhab it is not permissible for the Imam to look inside the Holy Quran or to read from a device while offering any salaah, be it Taraweeh or the Faradh Salaah. Such a practice will nullify the salaah. Likewise, it is not lawful for the Muqtadi to follow the Imam's recitation by looking in the Quran Shareef. The salaah of the Muqtadi will not be valid.
- 8) If the Muqtadi follows the Imam's recitation by looking inside the Quran Shareef, and happens to correct a mistake of the Imam, the salaah of the Imam and the entire jamaat will be invalidated.
- 9) It is not permissible to follow Taraweeh or Faradh salaah by watching it on TV or listening to a broadcast. Such salaah is null and void.

(To be continued)

THE HUQOOQ OR RIGHTS OF RAMADAAN

The Muslim Ummah has once again been blessed with the Auspicious Month of Ramadaan. It is only the infinite Grace and Eternal Mercy of Allah Ta'ala, that HE allows his servants to annually benefit from the Blessings and Spiritual Effulgence of Ramadaan. When the Month of Ramadaan arrives, it brings with it Maghfirat (forgiveness), Rahmat (Mercy), Freedom from Jahaanum, Admission into Jannat, increase in rizq (sustenance), closeness to Allah Ta'ala, Roohaani (Spiritual) vitality, and strengthening of iemaan.

During Ramadaan Muslims become more attached to their Deen and their Quran, and the urge to perform good deeds is dominant in their lives. No Muslim with the least iemaan will fail to be affected by the Divine Munificence that pervades every moment of this Mubarak month. However, to fully realize our spiritual potential and ability in this month, and to really reap the wonderful rewards of Ramadaan, we need to fulfill the right of this enormous month.

Ramadaan has certain huqooq (rights) over every Muslim, male or female, child or adult. If these rights are violated or neglected, the individual fails to achieve the immense benefits of this month. Sometimes we wonder why people go back to their old ways after Ramadaan, or become worse after Ramadaan than what they were before, or remain in the same spiritual frame without an iota of change. This state of affairs can be attributed to failure to fulfill the Rights of this month, or total abandonment of these rights.

Hazrat Abu Saeed Khudri (radhiyallahu anhu) reports that The Messenger of Allah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said: ***“He who fasts in Ramadaan, recognizes its limits, and safeguards that which has to be safeguarded of this month, it (Ramadaan) will wipe out all past sins.”*** (Durr-e-Manthoor, from Bayhaqi) In the words of another hadith, **such a person emerges from sin like a new born baby.** This underscores the potent cleansing power of Ramadaan, and the tremendous spiritual revitalization that it creates within the Muslim. But such benefits only come when one has recognised the limits and restrictions of the month and has safe-guarded its rights.

A SMALL SACRIFICE

To achieve this is not a monumental task at all, given the favourable climate and benign atmosphere for good that Allah Ta'ala has ordained in Ramadaan. It only needs a little bit of sacrifice from the side of the individual. The moments of Ramadaan have been infused with such amazing blessings that makes the practicing of good deeds very easy. All that is required from our side is a little bit of sacrifice. We, therefore, need to give ourselves a chance to imbibe the spiritual blessings of this month by making that extra bit of sacrifice.

TV IN RAMADAAN

Those who were in the habit of watching television must be prepared to give up this past-time at least in The Month of Ramadaan. Some of us might cut down on the films and other programs, but just cannot resist the temptation to watch TV sport. The moments of this Blessed Month are

too precious to while away in such futility. Hopefully, through this little sacrifice, the TV will be entirely abandoned after Ramadaan.

ILLCIT RELATIONS IN RAMADAAN

Some are unable to give up their haraam association with females in this month, albeit on a lesser scale than before. The chat-rooms are still abuzz, even in Ramadaan, with Muslims communicating with the opposite sex. How can one enjoy the spiritual ambience of Ramadaan whilst involved in the disobedience of Allah? This is total violation of the rights of Ramadaan. If a Muslim is not capable of shunning sin in Ramadaan, when will he or she ever do it? At the very least, if unable to do good in Ramadaan, just don't commit sin! Every night of Ramadaan, from sunset to dawn, an angel announces: **“O Seeker of Good! Come forward! Or Seeker of Evil: Get Back!”** This Divine call urges the Muslim to seek good in this month and to desist from evil.

NEGLECT OF FASTING

Another extremely sad and demoralising situation is the total neglect of fasting by some Muslims. Can one imagine a healthy, strong Muslim not fasting in Ramadaan? And the excuses tendered for such neglect are so flimsy that one shudders to think how such Muslims will answer on the Day of Judgment, before Almighty Allah. Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) said: **“Allah has made compulsory the fast of Ramadaan.”** (Nasaa-ee, Ibn Majah) Fasting is one of the five pillars upon which rests the edifice of Islam. Neglect of this means one has broken down one of those pillars. That will surely lead to the weakening of one's entire Islam.

In the same hadeeth Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) specifically mentioned the taraweeh salaah as a fixed and standard practice of Ramadaan. He said: ***“And I have established for you the sunnat of nightly salaah; so whosoever fasts in Ramadaan and observes the nightly salaah with conviction and hope for reward, shall emerge from his sins as the day his mother gave birth to him.”*** (Nasaa-ee, Ibn Majah, Ahmed) Yet Muslims are neglecting this ibadat on a large scale. This is a clear and major violation of one of the rights of this great month.

An integral aspect of fasting is to abstain from back-biting, lies, scandal-mongering, and futile talk. Abstaining from these also represent fulfilment of the rights of Ramadaan.

May Allah guide us all to His Pleasure, aameen.

“And (every night of Ramadaan) an announcer calls out: ‘O Seeker of Good! Come forward! O Seeker of Evil! Desist (from your sin)! Is there anyone begging from Me, so that I could give? Is there anyone seeking forgiveness, so that I could grant forgiveness? Is there anyone asking for sustenance, so that I could provide Rizq?’

These are the announcements that come out of the heavens each and every night of Ramadaan, from sunset till dawn the next day. These announcements are made by the Angels upon the instructions of Allah Ta'ala.